

Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative



University of California
San Francisco

Understanding Intimate Partner Violence & Homelessness:

Findings from the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness

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Content Warning

- This presentation contains discussion of the following:
 - Physical, Sexual, Financial, and Emotional Violence
 - Abusive relationships
 - Homelessness caused by intimate partner violence
 - Intimate partner violence experienced during homelessness

A Note on Terminology

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) encompasses violence, abuse or aggression committed by a former or current intimate partner such as a spouse or dating partner.

Panelists



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Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Overview of CASPEH
- Findings related to IPV and homelessness
- Policy Recommendations
- Panelist Q&A

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Toward a New Understanding

The California Statewide Study of
People Experiencing Homelessness

June 2023

Benioff Homelessness
and Housing Initiative

UCSF

University of California
San Francisco

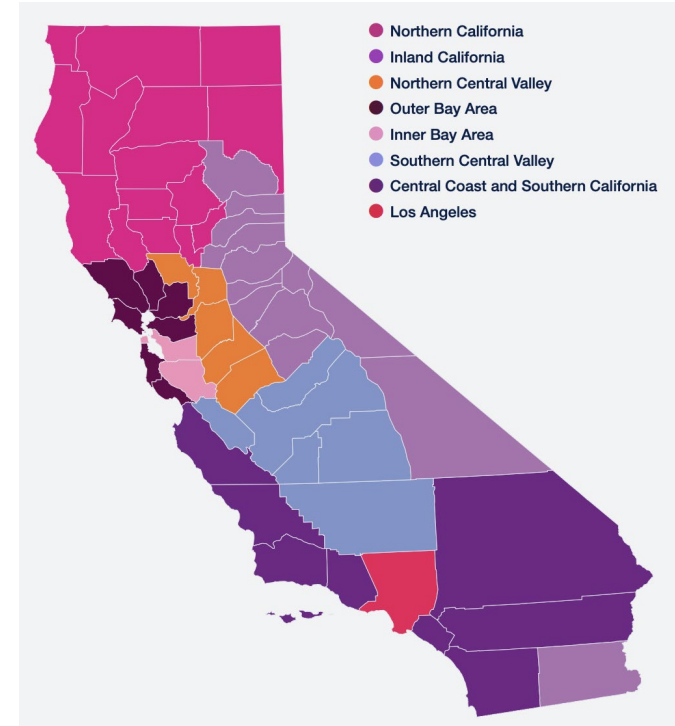


Study Origins and Significance

- Largest representative study of homelessness in US since 1990s
- Dr. Margot Kushel is the Principal Investigator of CASPEH
- Conducted at the request of the California Health and Human Services Agency to answer critical questions about homelessness facing CA policymakers
- Funded by UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, Blue Shield of California Foundation, California Health Care Foundation

Study Methods

- **8 counties** representing 8 regions (exact counties confidential)
- Target population: **Adults 18+** experiencing homelessness
- Mixed Methods
 - **3,200 questionnaires**
 - **365 paired in-depth interviews** (50 IPV interviews, 104 discussed IPV)
- Community engaged practices (3 community advisory boards)



Pathways to Homelessness



8% of CASPEH
participants experienced
intimate partner violence
in the 6 months prior to
homelessness

3%

cisgender men

17%

cisgender women

Among those who reported IPV 6 months prior to homelessness



40% of CASPEH participants who reported IPV in the 6 months prior to homelessness indicated that violence was a reason for leaving their last housing

Where were participants prior to homelessness?

Among participants who experienced IPV in the 6 months prior to homelessness:

- Non-leaseholding arrangements: **50%**
- Leaseholding arrangements: **38%**
- Institutional settings (medical facility, group home, jail or prison): **13%**

Intimate Partner Violence as a Precursor to Homelessness.

Median monthly income was **\$1,000** among those experiencing IPV in the months prior to homelessness.

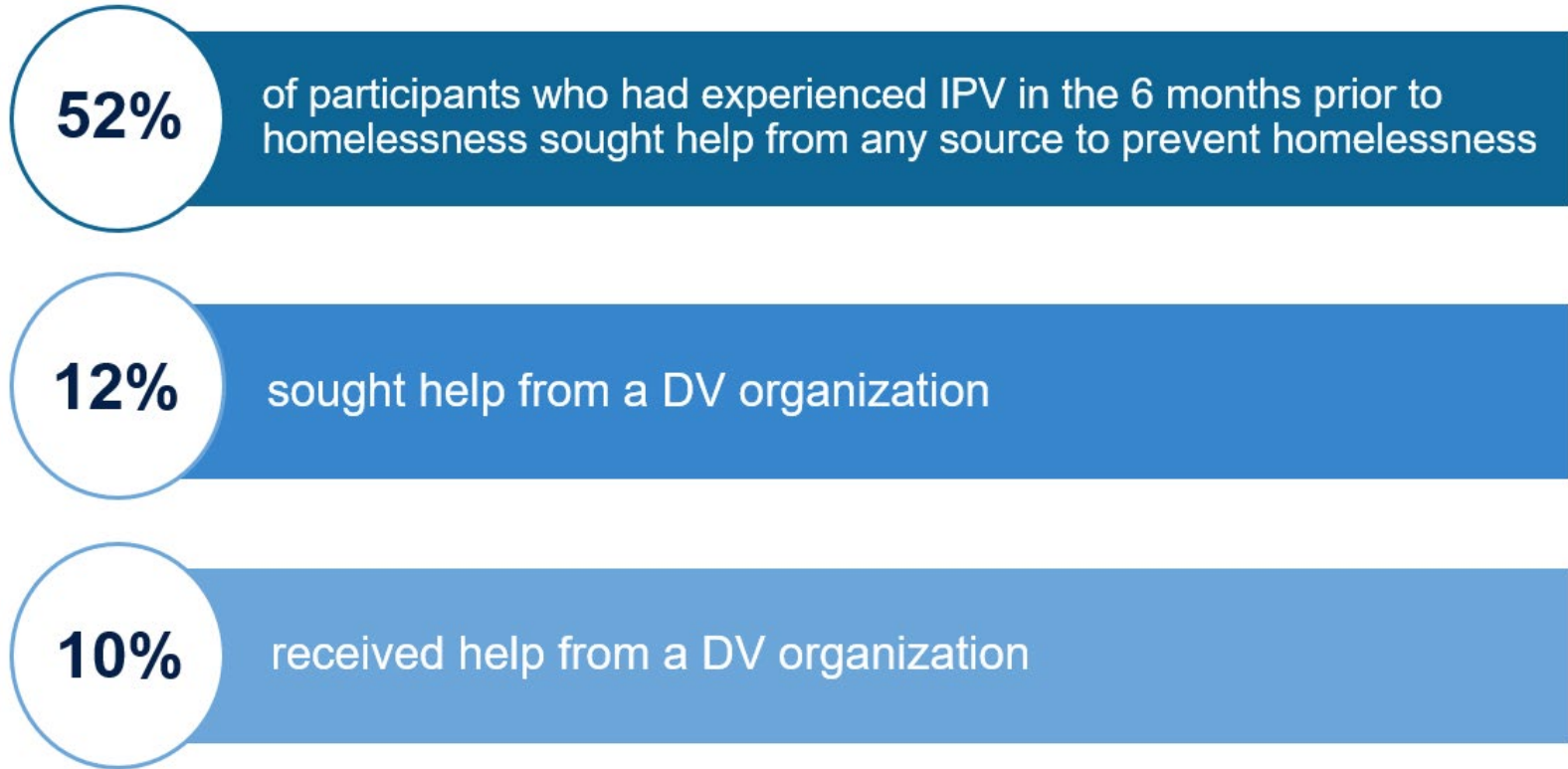
1 in **5** who experienced IPV prior to homelessness and reported leaving a household where they were a leaseholder, had a rental subsidy.



*"I'm here now [homeless] because I left the house. **I just needed to leave because it was more physical and more violent.**"*

- CASPEH Participant (45-year-old woman)

Seeking Safety and Support





"I called [the DV shelter], they said that they didn't have any room available."

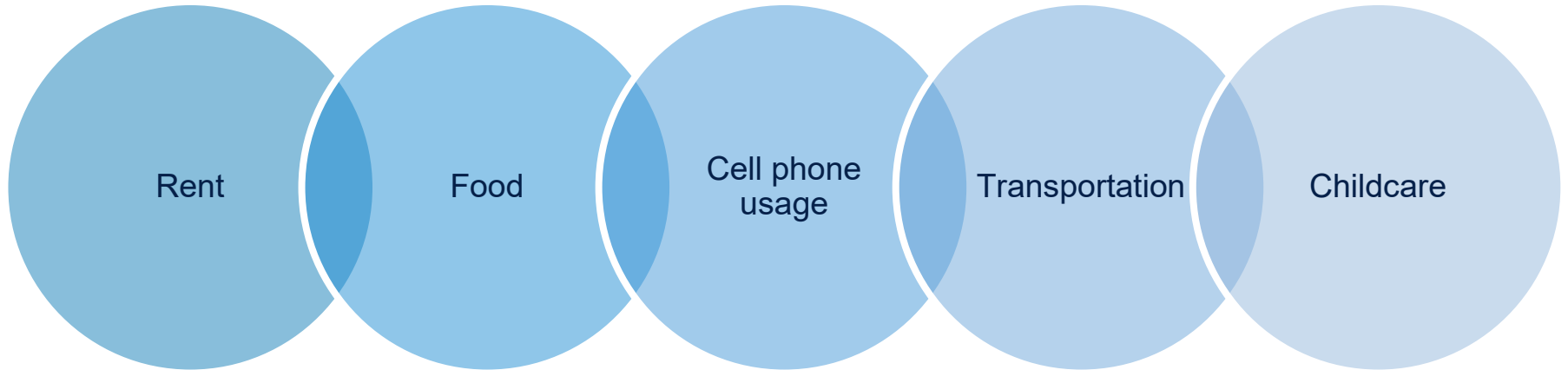
- CASPEH Participant (43-year-old woman)

Survivors believed financial support would have durably prevented their homelessness:

- **73%** believed a \$300-\$500 monthly subsidy would have
- **83%** believed a \$5,000-\$10,000 lump-sum payment would have
- **92%** believed a housing voucher (similar to Housing Choice Voucher) would have

Seeking Safety and Support

Flexible Funding



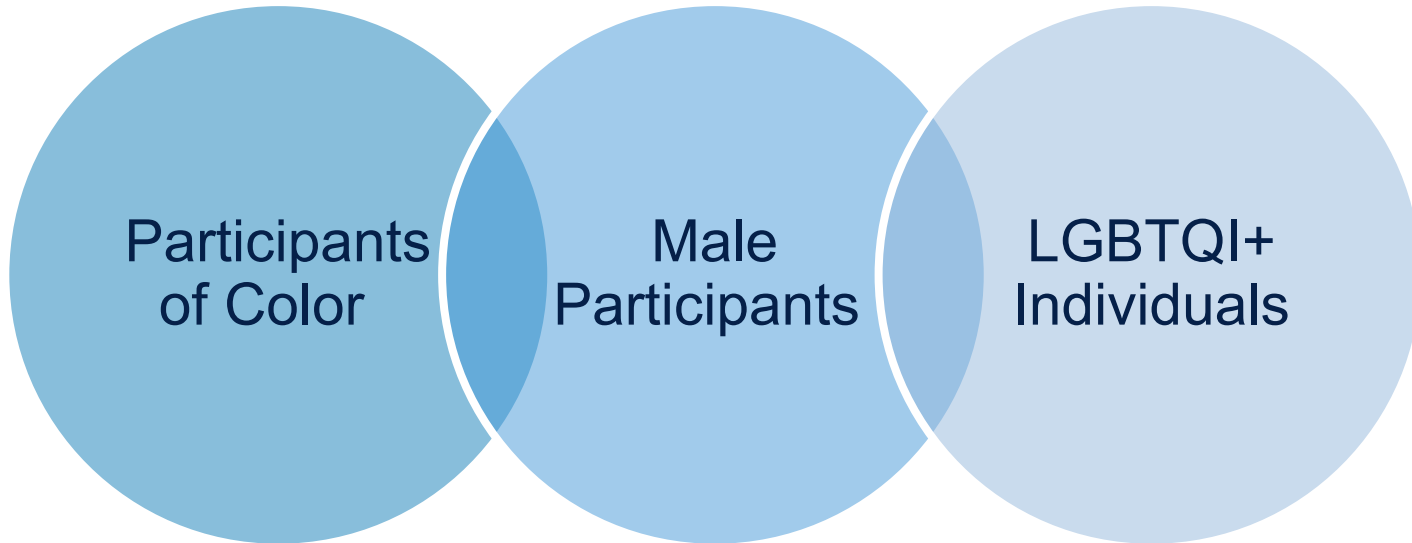


*"In my opinion, **probably 90% of the people that are in abusive relationships, would get out if they had an out** to go to, if they weren't going to lose their kids, their home, their financial ability to function day to day, then it would be a whole lot easier to leave."*

- CASPEH Participant (43-year-old woman)

Seeking Safety and Support

Discrimination, Racism and Stigma





*“I think twice before calling police. **You want to call but, you don’t want to end up dead.** It’s sad to say. But it’s true.”*

- CASPEH Participant (39-year-old Black woman)

Seeking Safety and Support

Health Care Systems

87% of participants who experienced IPV in the 6 months prior to homelessness had health insurance coverage



*"There wasn't really any assistance at the time that I went to [the doctor] and told them about what was going on. **If there was more proactive assistance when you're facing domestic violence, things have a better outcome.**"*

- CASPEH Participant (43-year-old woman)

Seeking Safety and Support

Enforcement Entities

Participants did not trust enforcement agencies (e.g., police, Child Protective Services) with their safety.



*"I'd be hearing stories about the CPS. **Once they know there is domestic violence happening, they're going to take all of your kids from you. I was really scared.**"*

- CASPEH Participant (37-year-old woman)

Interpersonal Strategies

41% of participants who experienced IPV in the 6 months prior to homelessness sought help from friends and family



*"Tell people to keep safe kits. **Because it saves your life...**like money or an extra phone."*

- CASPEH Participant (45-year-old woman)

Experiences During Homelessness



8% of all CASPEH
participants experienced
IPV during homelessness

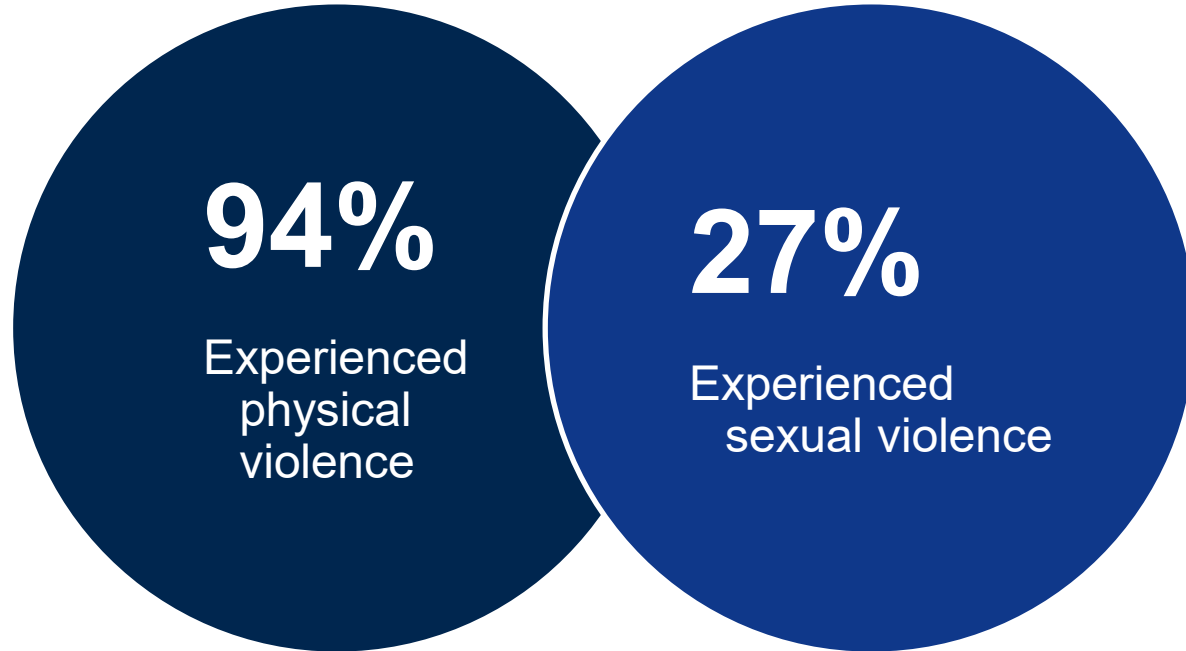
5%

cisgender men

15%

cisgender women

Among those who reported IPV during this episode of homelessness





*“I'm still worried because he's threatened to burn me down – burn my tent down while I'm in it... so I don't sleep here at night. I'll go on my bike, **I'll ride all night long rather than be here by myself. Then I sleep during the day, because that's safe.**”*

- CASPEH Participant (49-year-old woman)

Challenges Accessing Shelter

Of the participants who experienced IPV prior to homelessness *and* indicated that violence was a reason for losing their housing, **43%** reported that there was a time that they wanted shelter, but could not access it.

Shelter Status and Access During Homelessness

Among participants who experienced IPV prior to homelessness and reported violence as a reason for leaving housing:

60% spent most of their nights unsheltered

28% spent most of their nights in non-DV shelter

5% spent most of their nights in DV shelter

Of those that entered DV shelters, many noted that the shelters lacked access to long-term affordable housing options



*"They make you sign something saying that you're not promised housing after you leave here. We're not safe after we leave here because we're going to go back in the street, where our abusers are at... **What happens after 60 days if I don't find [housing]? There's no bridges here. I'm scared."***

- CASPEH Participant (50-year-old woman)

Barriers to Regaining Housing for Survivors of IPV





"There should be more things for women that are abused ...somewhere to place them and house them, somewhere to give them grants, some type of funds to help them get on their feet. I have nothing... I physically do not have any living relatives anymore. My friends and family are either in Nashville, Tennessee or in another country. I've never met them."

- CASPEH Participant (56-year-old woman)

Policy Recommendations

Policy Recommendation Areas

- Affordable, Permanent Housing for Survivors
- Violence and Homelessness Prevention
- Support Survivors Currently Experiencing Homelessness
- Center Equity

Increase Access to Affordable, Permanent Housing Options for Survivors

- Increase affordable housing for survivors of intimate partner violence.
- Prioritize Housing First approaches for survivors of IPV.
- Increase rental subsidies available to extremely low income individuals, including those impacted by intimate partner violence.

Prioritize Homelessness Prevention

- Provide flexible funding to meet the survivors' needs.
- Create specialized coordinated entry access points for survivors at risk of homelessness.
- Optimize access to supportive services to manage the legal consequences of IPV.

Prioritize Violence Prevention

- Support survivor-driven safety-planning.
- Improve trauma-informed care and provision of IPV-resources in healthcare.
- Increase education and awareness about intimate partner violence.

Support Survivors Currently Experiencing Homelessness

- Increase dedicated shelter options and housing options for those impacted by intimate partner violence.
- Consider alternative options to support immediate needs when domestic violence shelters reach capacity.
- Increase flexible, affirmative outreach strategies for survivors currently experiencing homelessness.

Promote Equity in Responses to Intimate Partner Violence

- Seek policies that avoid carceral approaches to intimate partner violence.
- Ensure programs and services designed for those impacted by intimate partner violence center gender, sexual orientation, and cultural competency.



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CASPEH IPV Report



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